

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05 SSM-03 SAA-01 /098 W  
-----053523 161746Z /43

R 161026Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9379  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6721

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS:PINT, IR, PGOV  
SUBJ: RESURGENCE PARTY DEFECTIONS SIGNAL POLITICAL SHIFTS

REF: A. TEHRAN 6311, B. TEHRAN 6154, C. TEHRAN 6697

SUMMARY: SEVERAL RESURGENCE PARTY (RPPI) OFFICIALS HAVE RESIGNED  
OVER PAST WEEK. BACKROOM POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AND RUMORS OF  
PROJECTED SHIFTS ARE WIDESPREAD. END SUMMARY.

1. RPPI DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL MOHAMMAD REZA AMELI-TEHRANI  
RESIGNED JULY 12 BECAUSE HE CLAIMED PARTY EXECUTIVES DID NOT  
LISTEN TO HIS ADVICE. HIS RESIGNATION, MADE PUBLIC JULY 15,  
SAID HE HAD PROPOSED A SET OF SOLUTIONS TO PARTY PROBLEMS WHICH  
HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN ENOUGH CONSIDERATION BY THE PARTY ORGANIZAT-  
TION. AMELI-TEHRANI IS A FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE (RIGHT  
WING) PAN IRANIST PARTY (PIP), WHICH WAS RECENTLY REVIVED BY  
MAJLES DEPUTY MOHSEN PEZESHKPOUR (REF A). SPECULATION  
HAS BEEN GROWING OVER PAST FEW WEEKS THAT AMELI-TEHRANI  
MIGHT RETURN TO HIS OLD POST, AND PEZESHKPOUR TOLD LOCAL  
PRESS AFTER RESIGNATION ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS "EAGERLY  
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WAITING" TO SEE HIS FORMER COLLEAGUE RETURN TO THE PIP  
TRENCHES. AMELI-TEHRANI HAS NOT INDICATED WHAT HE WILL DO,  
BUT SAID HE STANDS READY TO DISCUSS HIS RESIGNATION "IN  
DETAIL" WITH RPPI OFFICIALS IF ASKED.

2. SEVERAL LESSER RPPI OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO RESIGNED FOR  
SIMILAR REASONS. MOST NOTABLE DEFECTIONS ARE THOSE OF

EAST AZARBAIJAN PARTY SECRETARY AND KERMANSHAH PARTY CHIEF, WHO BOTH QUIT WITHIN PAST TEN DAYS. SOURCE CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (PM IS ALSO RPPI HEAD) AND OTHERS BELIEVE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE DEFECTIONS FROM IRAN'S SINGLE PARTY AS MORE PEOPLE BELIEVE GOI IS SERIOUS ABOUT LETTING "NON-OFFICIAL"(I.E., NON-RPPI) CANDIDATES RUN FOR MAJLES AND SENATE POSTS NEXT YEAR. EFFECT OF GOI'S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TO REMOVE OFFICIAL MANTLE FROM RPPI AND OPEN WAY TO FURTHER DEFECTIONS.

3. WHILE RPPI IS SOMEWHAT DISPIRITED AT MOMENT, IT STILL REMAINS MAJOR FEATURE OF POLITICAL LANDSCAPE. NUMBER OF SOURCES WITH VARYING RPPI CONNECTIONS AT SEVERAL LEVELS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT RPPI WOULD HAVE TO "GET ITS ACT TOGETHER" (REF B) IF IT WERE TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN OPEN ELECTIONS WHERE IT DID NOT HAVE VETO ON CANDIDATES AS IT DID IN 1975. PRESENT DEFECTIONS SHOULD BE SEEN AS NECESSARY PART OF SHAKEDOWN AND REALIGNMENT IN RESPONSE TO EMERGING PERCEPTIONS THAT RULES OF POLITICAL GAME IN IRAN ARE CHANGING.

4. POLITICAL TALK HAS ACCELERATED DRAMATICALLY IN PAST FEW WEEKS, AND EACH EVENING BRINGS FRESH WAVES OF RUMORS OF POTENTIAL REALIGNMENTS, DEFECTIONS FROM RPPI, FORMATION OF NEW GROUPS, ETC. (REF C). OF INTEREST IS THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF EMERGENCE OF "THIRD WING" OF RPPI, DISCUSSION CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DATE HAS CENTERED AROUND NUCLEI OF OLDER GROUPS-- NATIONAL FRONT, PAN-IRANISTS, TOILERS, AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS. DESPITE TALK OF EMERGENT NEW FORCES, THUS FAR DISCUSSIONS HAS LOOKED LIKE NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES--RPPI. THE WAY IS STILL OPEN FROM SOME NEW EVOLUTION, BUT TO DATE OPPOSITIONIST POLITICIANS SEEM TO HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO OLD FORMS, WHILE "ESTABLISHMENT" FIGURES ARE STICKING TO THE RPPI BUT PROMOTING SOME NEW RHETORIC. NAAS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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